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ana Department
of
Fish, Wildlife & Parks

Region One
490 North Meridian Rd.
Kalispell, MT 59901
(406) 752-5501
FAX: 406-257-0349

Ref:DV242.94
March 11, 1994

TO: Environmental Quality Council, Capitol Building, Helena, MT 59620-1704
Department of Health & Environmental Sciences, Director's Office, Room C108, Cogswell Bldg., Helena 59620-0901
Dept. of Fish, Wildlife & Parks
  Director's Office
  Parks Division
  Fisheries Division
  Wildlife Division
  Regional Supervisor
  Lands Section
  Design and Construction
  Legal Unit
Montana Historical Society, State Historic Preservation Office, 225 North Roberts, Veteran's Memorial Building, Helena 59620-1201
Montana State Library, 1515 East Sixth Avenue, Helena 59620-1800
Montana Dept. of Livestock, Game Farm Applications, 301 Roberts, Helena 59620
Jim Jensen, Montana Environmental Information Center, POB 1184, Helena 59624
Janet Ellis, Montana Audubon Council, P. O. Box 924, Helena, MT 59624
George Ochenski, P.O. Box 689, Helena, MT 59624
Sanders County Commissioners, County Courthouse, Thompson Falls 59873
Representative Jim Elliott, 100 Trout Creek Road, Trout Creek 59874
Eastern Sanders County Sportsman Club, 61 Swamp Crk. Rd., Plains 59859
Noxon Rod & Gun Club, c/o Robert Flonsaas, Noxon 59853
Thompson Falls Archery Club, c/o Dale Peters, Box Holder, Thompson Falls 59873
USFS/Cabinet Ranger District, 2693 Hwy 200, Trout Creek 59874
Idaho Pine Association, Bldg #2, Suite #355, 400 Kuse Way, Lake Oswego, OR 97034-2459
Montana Wildlife Federation, P. O. Box 1175, Helena 59624

Ladies and Gentlemen:

The enclosed Environmental Assessment (EA) has been prepared for Cabinet Mountain Ranch, and is submitted for your consideration. Questions and comments will be accepted until **April 6, 1994** and should be directed to Bruce Sterling at P. O. Box 35, Thompson Falls, MT 59873, phone (406)826-4389.

Thank you for your interest.

Sincerely,

Dan Vincent
Regional Supervisor

/nb

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DRAFT

EA Checklist
For Game Farm License Applications

PART I. GAME FARM LICENSE APPLICATION

The department's authority to regulate game farms contained in sections 87-4-406 through 87-4-424, MCA and ARM 12.6.1501 through 12.6.1519 (Appendix A).

1. Name of Project: Cabinet Mountain Ranch

2. Name, Address and Phone Number of Applicant: Dieter Scholz, Box 590, Noxon, MT 59853 (208)264-5080

3. If Applicable:

   Estimated Construction/Commencement Date: November, 1993

   Estimated Completion Date: February, 1994

   Is this an application for expansion of existing facility or is a future expansion contemplated? No. Yes - 1995 or 1996

4. Location Affected by Proposed Action (county, range and township) Sanders, N½ NW¼ Sec. 26 R32W T26N

5. Project Size: Estimate the number of acres that would be directly affected that are currently:

   (a) Developed:
      Residential.... ____ acres
      Industrial..... ____ acres

   (b) Open Space/Woodlands/
      Areas.......... ____ acres
      1 Single family dwelling

   (c) Wetlands/Riparian
      Areas.......... ____ acres

   (d) Floodplain .... ____ acres

   (e) Productive:
      Irrigated cropland.. ____ acres
      Dry cropland......... ____ acres
      Forestry................. 10 acres
      Rangeland............. 10 acres

   (f) Other................... ____ acres

6. Map/site plan: See Appendix A.

7. Narrative Summary of the Proposed Action or Project including the Benefits and Purpose of the Proposed Action.

   Mr. Scholz plans to place in a fenced pasture 50 to 75 fallow deer. The facility is new and consists of 20 fenced areas. Indications from the applicant are that he plans to use the animals for breeding, meat and antler production along with trophy sales. Future expansion in undetermined but may begin in 1995 or 1996. The proposed action calls for specific stipulations: 1) Double perimeter chain link fence, 2) no outside gates, and 3) perimeter soil berm construction.

8. Listing of any other Local, State or Federal agency that has overlapping or additional jurisdiction.

(a) Permits:

Agency Name:	Permit:	Date Filed/#:
N/A		

Access to property either through an easement of special use permit. The applicant is currently working on attaining legal access to the property, but has not submitted an application to the USFS.

(b) Funding:

Agency Name:	Funding Amount:
N/A	

(c) Other Overlapping or Additional Jurisdictional Responsibilities:

Agency Name:	Type of Responsibility:
Montana Department of Livestock	Health Inspection, Certification & Transportation Permits, Disease Testing
Sanders County Weed Board	Noxious Weed Control
Department of Health & Environmental Services Water Quality Bureau	Air, Water Quality, Human Disease

9. List of Agencies Consulted During Preparation of the EA:

Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, Wildlife Division, Law Enforcement Division

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW

A. Evaluation of the Impacts of the Proposed Action Including Secondary and Cumulative Impacts on the Physical and Human Environment:

PHYSICAL ENVIRONMENT

1. LAND RESOURCES **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACTS				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Soil instability or changes in geologic substructure?			x		No	1.a.
b. Disruption, displacement, erosion, compaction, moisture loss, or over-covering of soil which would reduce productivity or fertility?			x		No	1.b.
c. Destruction, covering or modification of any unique geologic or physical features?		x				
d. Changes in siltation, deposition or erosion patterns that may modify the channel of a river or stream or the bed or shore of a lake?		x				
e. Other: _						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

1.a. Season-long continuous grazing by fallow deer will have a negative impact on grass and forb species in the pastures. Continuous grazing over time will result in the elimination of vegetation through reduced plant vigor and physical trampling. Some soil instability could result from the loss of the vegetative ground cover.

1.b. See Comment A. In addition, the pasture site is located on a gentle slope. The potential for soil loss through wind and/or water sheet erosion is increased with the loss of the ground cover.

SICAL ENVIRONMENT

2. AIR **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACTS				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Emission of air pollutants or deterioration of ambient air quality?			x		No	2.a.
b. Creation of objectionable odors?			x		No	2.b.
c. Other: _						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

2.a. With the loss of a vegetative ground cover, wind erosion could potentially increase particulate matter (dust) which may result in a deterioration of ambient air quality.

2.b. The accumulation of fecal matter, urine, insecticides and herbicides used to treat the animals or to control weeds could result in the creation of objectionable odors.

*Include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

3. WATER **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACTS				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Discharge into surface water or any alteration of surface water quality including but not limited to temperature, dissolved oxygen, turbidity or pathogens?			x		Yes	3.a.
b. Changes in drainage patterns or the rate and amount of surface runoff?			x		Yes	3.b.
c. Alteration of the course or magnitude of flood water or other flows?		x				
d. Changes in the amount of surface water in any water body or creation of a new water body?		x				
e. Exposure of people or property to water related hazards such as flooding?		x				
f. Changes in the quality of groundwater?	x					3.f.
g. Changes in the quantity of groundwater?		x				
h. Increase in the risk of contamination of surface or groundwater?			x			3.h.
i. Violation of the Montana Non Degradation Statute?	x					3.i.
j. Effects on any existing water right or reservation?		x				
k. Effects on other water users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quality?	x					3.k.
l. Effects on other users as a result of any alteration in surface or groundwater quantity?		x				
m. Other: _						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Air Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

3.a. Engle Creek flows immediately adjacent to the corrals. Accumulation of fecal matter, urine, insecticides and herbicides used to treat animals or to control weeds could flow untreated into Engle Creek.

Mitigation measures will involve construction of dirt berms around the perimeter of the enclosures, built to a height high enough to restrict the movement of runoff or effluent into Engle Creek.

3.b. With the loss of a vegetative cover, surface runoff rate and volume may increase. Mitigation measures (see 3.a.).

3.f.h.i.k. Contaminants from concentrations of fallow deer would include fecal material and insecticides or other chemicals used to treat the animals and/or weeds. The effect of the contaminant concentrations on the local watershed and groundwater is unknown, but may present a hazard. For the effects on surface water, see 3.a.

*Include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

4. VEGETATION **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Changes in the diversity, productivity or abundance of plant species (including trees, shrubs, grass, crops, and aquatic plants)?			x		No	4.a.
b. Alteration of a plant community?		x				
c. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened, or endangered plant species?	x					4.c.
d. Reduction in acreage or productivity of any agricultural land?		x				
e. Establishment or spread of noxious weeds?			x		No	4.e.
f. Other: _						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Vegetation Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

4.a.e. It is expected that season-long continuous grazing by fallow deer will have a negative impact on the native vegetation in the pastures. This effect can be expected to be similar to a livestock feed lot situation resulting in an elimination of native vegetation. The reduction of native vegetative ground cover will increase the probability of annual noxious weed establishment along with a dramatic increase in bare ground. The establishment of noxious weeds in the pastures will have to be controlled by the applicant either by hand pulling or the application of a herbicide.

4.c. While there was no survey conducted, no rare or endangered plant species are known to exist on the property.

*Include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE **A. Based on design of the proposed game farm, and physical attributes and wildlife values of the site, what is the potential for any of the following to occur?**	POTENTIAL FOR OCCURRENCE				Can Potential Be Reduced?*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	Minimal*	Significant Moderate*	Significant High*		
a. Through-the-fence contact between game farm animals and wildlife (consider traditional seasonal habitat use and location of travel routes and migration corridors).		x			Yes	5.A.a.
b. Escape of game farm animals – consider site-specific factors that could reduce effectiveness of perimeter fences built to standards outlined in Rule 12.6.1503A (including steepness of terrain, winter snow depths/drifting, susceptibility of fences to flood damage, etc.).		x			Yes	5.A.b.
c. Ingress of wildlife – consider site-specific factors that could reduce effectiveness of perimeter fences (see b.) built to standards outlined in Rule 12.6.1503A, as well as circumstances that could attract wildlife to or into the game farm (traditional seasonal habitat use and location of travel routes and migration corridors).		x			Yes	5.A.c.
d. Deterioration of critical wildlife habitat (capability to produce or sustain wildlife populations).		x				5.A.d.
e. Displacement of wildlife from critical habitat(s) as a result of proposed fences or other factors.		x				5.A.e.
f. Creation of barriers to travel routes or seasonal migration corridors used by wildlife populations.		x				5.A.f.
g. Other conditions that may stress wildlife populations, affecting their diversity, abundance or distribution.		x				5.A.g.
h. Changes in the diversity, abundance or distribution of game populations (include redistribution of wildlife from habitats that would be rendered unsuitable or inaccessible because of fencing or other factors).		x				5.A.h.
i. Changes in the diversity, abundance or distribution of nongame populations (include redistribution of wildlife from habitats that would be rendered unsuitable or inaccessible because of fencing or other factors).		x				5.A.i.
j. Adverse effects on any unique, rare, threatened or endangered species, or their habitats.		x				5.A.j.
k. Introduction of any species not presently or historically occurring in the affected area.				x	Yes	5.A.k.

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Fish/Wildlife Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

5.A.a.c. The probability of the game farm being visited by elk and deer is low. Visits by wild elk and deer increase the potential for through-the-fence contact between game farm animals and wildlife and the possibility of disease transmission. Mitigate with double perimeter fence.

5.A.b. The potential for escape of game farm animals is probably minimal but the implication of an escape from the possibility of disease and parasite transmission and habitat loss to the wildlife is very significant. Mitigate with double perimeter fence.

5.A.d. The site of the proposed game farm is not located on critical wildlife habitat or in any seasonal migration corridors and is small in size. Any negative effects of the game farm site would likely be felt by the unknown numbers of nongame wildlife that may be using the existing native vegetation within the enclosure.

5.A.e.f.g.h.i.j. The site of the proposed game farm is not located on critical wildlife habitat or in any seasonal migration corridors and is small in size. Any negative effects of the game farm site would likely be felt by the unknown numbers of nongame wildlife that may be using the existing native vegetation within the enclosure.

*Include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

5.A.k. Fallow deer (Dama dama) are not native to Montana. If introduced into the wild, the potential for negative impacts on native wildlife species is severe. The largest impact would be loss of habitat and direct competition primarily to white-tailed deer. Fallow deer can establish feral populations and can out-compete white-tailed deer. They readily adapt to the wild, are aggressive competitors and are difficult or impossible to eradicate once they are on the loose (MDFWP, 1992). Mitigate with double perimeter fence.

5. FISH/WILDLIFE (Continued) **B. What degree of impact would any of the following (a.–f.) have on wildlife populations associated with the site? For items (a.–f.) that would result in impacts, provide a narrative that describes potential consequences.**	IMPACT				Can Impacts Be Mitigated?*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Introduction and/or transmission of diseases or parasites to wildlife populations associated with the site.				x	Yes	5.B.a.
b. Establishment of feral population(s) of escaped game farm animals.				x	Yes	5.B.b.
c. Habitat degradation or competition as a result of feral populations or exclusion of wildlife populations from traditional seasonal habitat (including migration corridors).				x	Yes	5.B.c.
d. Hybridization/ genetic pollution of wildlife populations associated with the site.		x				5.B.d.
e. Displacement and/or redistribution of wildlife populations from traditional seasonal habitat (including migration corridors).		x				5.B.e.
f. Other: _						
C. Species potentially significantly impacted: For each wildlife species (or group of species) that would be potentially significantly impacted, state the factor(s) to which the impact(s) are attributed and address the following:						
a. Estimated size of affected wildlife population(s).			x			5.C.a.
b. Year-round distribution of affected wildlife population(s).			x			5.C.b.
c. Characterization of wildlife use (year-round v. seasonal) of the area to be impacted, including reference to any special habitat features.			x			5.C.c.
d. Proportion (%) of the total habitat area that is currently used, that will be enclosed or otherwise impacted.			x			5.C.d.
e. Other: _						

5.B.a. Inadvertent introduction of parasites of major significance have taken place at other sites in Montana and in other states. Tuberculosis has been documented on five Montana game farms. Transmission of tuberculosis to free-ranging wildlife populations would have a significant impact. Efforts to control it, to protect wildlife resources as well as the state's livestock industry, would be very expensive and probably futile.

Manure, other effluent and contaminated soil from the game farm, is a recognized dispersal source for transmission of disease and parasites. If it is stored in such a manner that wild animals would have access to it, or through erosion and runoff, it would be transported below the penned area to public and/or private lands; the potential for inadvertent transmission of pathogens would be high.

Disease pathogens and parasites remain viable in contaminated soil for varying lengths of time (up to several years in the case of Elaphostrongylus cervi) depending upon their life cycle and durability. Game farm animals in New Zealand have been know to contract disease from sites that had housed diseased animals from the previous year. Many parasites of concern are passed through fecal material.

In the case of bovine tuberculosis, if conditions are suitable, the organism may survive up to three to six months (Dr. Robert Meyer, Regional Epidemiologist, Western Region of Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, specializing in bovine tuberculosis). Suitable conditions include a moist cool (or freezing) climate, out of direct sunlight. The TB organism survives better than most pathogens due to its waxy lipid cell wall which protects it from drying. Moist cooled fecal material, out of direct sunlight, would provide the correct environment for tuberculosis to remain viable.

Although brucellosis is less durable than tuberculosis, Dr. Calvin Campbell (Regional Epidemiologist, Western Region of Veterinary Services, APHIS, USDA, specializing in brucellosis) notes the organism can remain viable for days or weeks if cool moist conditions exist. If an animal is infected, some pathogenic discharge will occur via saliva and nasal discharge or through body waste. Fluids associated with the birthing process are the source of brucellosis transmission. Isolation of female animals in an area by themselves where they may calve and clean the new born further aids in stemming contamination and transmission of brucellosis.

5.B.b.c. **Fallow deer (Dama dama) are not native to Montana. If introduced into the wild, the potential for negative impacts on native wildlife species is severe.** The largest impact would be loss of habitat and direct competition primarily to white-tailed deer. Fallow deer can establish feral populations and can out-compete white-tailed deer. They readily adapt to the wild, are aggressive competitors and are difficult or impossible to eradicate once they are on the loose (MDFWP, 1992, Mitigate with double perimeter fence.

*Include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

Regarding animals escaping from game farms, Colorado has had extensive experience. Kahn (1992) cites four instances in Colorado where exotic wildlife became established in the wild. He reports:

> "Among those cases documented in Colorado, the success of efforts to recapture escaped wild ungulates has varied widely from all to none. Some escaped elk, red deer or elk/red deer hybrids have been recovered (dead or alive) by owners in 60 percent of the cases. However in only about 33 percent of the cases have all escaped animals been recovered. At least 6 captive elk have been shot by hunters during the past four years; these harvests have occurred up to 30 miles from the facility of origin. Recovery efforts have been even less successful for other escaped species; in 67 percent of the documented cases owners of escaped exotics have failed (or in some cases not even attempted) to recover animals at large. The consequences of failing to recover escaped captive animals has included establishment of free ranging populations of Ibex, Barbary sheep, red deer and fallow deer, as well as the potential genetic contamination of native elk and bighorn sheep populations. The Colorado Division of Wildlife has spent in excess of $150,000 during the past four years in efforts to control and eliminate these escaped populations of exotic wildlife. In spite of these resources the efforts to date have not been 100 percent successful.
>
> "Based on cases documented in Colorado, attempts to recapture escaped captive wildlife are usually only partially successful at best; moreover, escaped individuals can remain at large and survive in the wild for extended (or indefinite) periods of time and can range significant distances from facilities of origin. Species, group size, acclimation to and duration of confinement, facility location and surrounding habitat type, timeliness of detecting escape and efforts expended in recapture attempts all appear to influence the likelihood of owners recapturing escapees."

5.B.d. Fallow deer cannot hybridize with native deer or elk.

5.B.e. The site of the proposed game farm is not located on critical wildlife habitat or in any seasonal migration corridors and is small in size. Any negative effects of the game farm site would likely be felt by the unknown numbers of nongame wildlife that may be using the existing native vegetation within the enclosure.

5.C.a.	Elk	50-100
	MD	100-150
	WT	200-300

5.C.b.c. Elk utilize the area primarily during late fall/winter/spring, but some animals are yearlong residents. Whitetails inhabit the area yearlong while mule deer are mostly winter through spring residents. Transmission of disease, game farm animal escapes with potential habitat loss and direct competition are impacts which could affect the wildlife population of deer and elk around Rock Creek.

5.C.d. <1%

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT

6. NOISE EFFECTS Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Increases in existing noise levels?		x				
b. Exposure of people to severe or nuisance noise levels?		x				
c. Other: _						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Noise/Electrical Effects (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

7. LAND USE Will the proposed action result in:	IMPACT				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Alteration of or interference with the productivity or profitability of the existing land use of an area?		x				
b. Conflict with a designated wildlife management area, natural area or area of unusual scientific or educational importance?		x				
c. Conflict with any existing land use whose presence would constrain or potentially prohibit the proposed action?		x				
d. Conflict with any existing land use that would be adversely affected by the proposed action.		x				
e. Adverse effects on or relocation of residences?		x				
f. Other:_						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Land Use (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

*Include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

8. RISK/HEALTH HAZARDS **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Risk of dispersal of hazardous substances (including, but not limited to chemicals or pathogens) in the event of an accident or other form of disruption?		x				
b. Creation of any hazard or potential hazard to domestic livestock?		x				
c. Creation of any human health hazard or potential hazard?			x		Yes	8.a.
d. Creation of any safety hazard to nearby dwellings, residents or recreationists as a result of firearms discharge on the premises of the proposed game farm?		x				
e. Other: _						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Risk/Health Hazards (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

8.a. Pathogens or chemicals could contaminate ground water or other water systems. Some of the common diseases that humans are capable of contracting from wildlife include brucellosis (undulate fever) and bovine tuberculosis. If Montana wildlife populations were to be infected with tuberculosis, hunting and other wildlife related recreation would be adversely impacted. The potential risk relative to ground water contamination is unknown. The probability of humans contracting a disease from wildlife is low.

Mitigation measures: regular blood chemistry analysis to detect the presence of undesirable pathogens and to prescribe appropriate treatments such as disease testing and monitoring.

*Include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

9. COMMUNITY IMPACTS **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Alteration of the location, distribution, density, or growth rate of the human population of an area?		x				
b. Alteration of the social structure of a community?		x				
c. Alteration of the level or distribution of employment or community or personal income?		x				
d. Changes in industrial or commercial activity?		x				
e. Changes in historic or traditional recreational use of an area?		x				
f. Changes in existing public benefits provided by affected wildlife populations and wildlife habitats (educational, cultural or historic)?		x				
g. Increased traffic hazards or effects on existing transportation facilities or patterns of movement of people and goods?		x				
h. Other: _						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Community Impacts (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

10. PUBLIC SERVICES/TAXES/UTILITIES **Will the proposed action:**	IMPACT				Can Impacts Be Mitigated	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Have an effect upon or result in a need for new or altered services provided by FWP and Dept. of Livestock to accomplish regulation of the game farm industry (inspections, animal counts, disease testing and monitoring, tattoo inspections, etc.)			x		No	10.a.
b. Have an effect upon the local or state tax base and revenues?	x					10.b.
c. Result in a need for new facilities or substantial alterations of any of the following utilities: electric power, natural gas, other fuel supply or distribution systems, or communications?		x				
d. Other: _						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Public Services/Taxes/Utilities (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

10.a. Licensing of the game farm will require the FWP to prepare an EA and conduct periodic inspections to assure compliance with rules and regulations.

10.b. Sanders County tax base and revenue should increase.

*Include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

11. AESTHETICS/RECREATION **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
Alteration of any scenic vista or creation of an aesthetically offensive site or ct that is open to public view?		x				
b. Alteration of the aesthetic character of a community or neighborhood?		x				
c. Changes in the quality or quantity of recreational opportunities and settings?		x				
d. Other: _						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Aesthetics/Recreation (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

HUMAN ENVIRONMENT (continued)

12. CULTURAL/HISTORICAL RESOURCES **Will the proposed action result in:**	IMPACT				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Destruction or alteration of any site, structure or object of prehistoric, historic, or paleontological importance?	x					12.a.
b. Physical change that would affect unique cultural or historic values?	x					12.b.
c. Effects on existing religious or sacred uses of a site or area?	x					12.c.
d. Other: _						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

12.a.b.c. No cultural resource file search was completed by the State Historic Preservation Office.

*Include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

SIGNIFICANCE CRITERIA

13. SUMMARY EVALUATION OF SIGNIFICANCE **Will the proposed action, considered as a whole:**	IMPACT				Can Impacts Be Mitigated*	Comment Index
	Unknown*	None	Minor*	Potentially Significant*		
a. Have impacts that are individually limited, but cumulatively considerable? (A project or program may result in impacts on two or more separate resources which create a significant effect when considered together or in total.)		x				
b. Involve potential risks or adverse effects which are uncertain but extremely hazardous if they were to occur?		x				
c. Potentially conflict with the substantive requirements of any local, state, or federal law, regulation, standard or formal plan?		x				
d. Establish a precedent or likelihood that future actions with significant environmental impacts will be proposed?		x				
e. Generate substantial debate or controversy about the nature of the impacts that would be created?		x				
f. Other: _						

Narrative Description and Evaluation of the Cumulative and Secondary Effects on Cultural/Historical Resources (Attach additional pages of narrative if needed):

*Include an attachment with a narrative explanation describing the scope and level of impact. If the impact is unknown, explain why the unknown impact has not or can not be evaluated.

PART II. ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW (Continued)

Description and analysis of reasonable alternatives (including the no action alternative) to the proposed action whenever alternatives are reasonably available and prudent to consider and a discussion of how the alternatives would be implemented:

Alternative I: Issue Game Farm permit without stipulations.

Alternative II: Issue Game Farm permit with double perimeter fence requirement and perimeters soil berm requirement and no outside gate requirement (proposed action).

Alternative III: Game Farm Permit not issued (No Action).

3. Evaluation and listing of mitigation, stipulation, or other control measures enforceable by the agency or another government agency:

1) Double perimeter fencing is required to help prevent the spread of disease and escape of game farm animals to the wild where recovery would be difficult and the likelihood of establishing a feral population is high.

2) No gates will be located on the exterior perimeter of the fence to negate the possibility of gates being left open, which would cause ingress and egress problems. Gates should be placed only at points where animal handling and transportation areas will be established.

3) Feed bunks and watering troughs must be elevated above ground to reduce the initiation and transmission of disease.

4) The perimeter of the enclosure must have soil berms built to a height high enough to control areas where run-off and effluent transport into Engle Creek may be a problem.

PART III. NARRATIVE EVALUATION AND COMMENT

- Discussion of the No Action:

e No Action alternative would result in the game farm permit not being issued and the prevention of fallow deer being placed into the facility.

- Discussion of the Proposed Action:

The proposed action will allow the Cabinet Mountain Ranch to establish fallow deer into the facility with several stipulations:

1. Double perimeter chain link fence,
2. no outside gates, and
3. perimeter soil berm.

The stipulations are required to help prevent disease transmission, surface water contamination and escape of fallow deer into the wild.

Public comment received on the proposed action identified the following issues: None

PART IV. EA CONCLUSION SECTION

Name, title, address and phone number of the Person(s) Responsible for Preparing the EA:

Bruce Sterling, Wildlife Biologist, P. O. Box 35, Thompson Falls, MT 59873 (406)827-4389.
Mark Soderlind, Game Warden, Box 1347, 322 Washington, Thompson Falls, MT 59873 (406)827-4817.

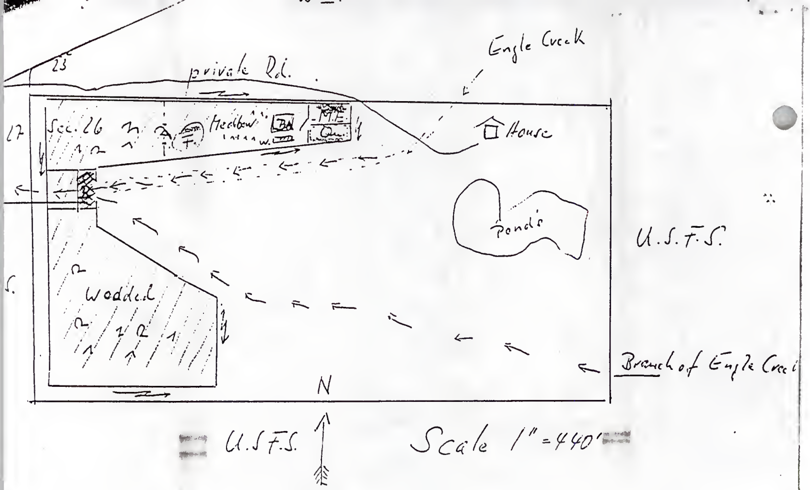
LITERATURE CITED

Kahn, Rick. 1992. Ingress and egress from game farms in Colorado. Colorado Division of Wildlife. 4 pp.

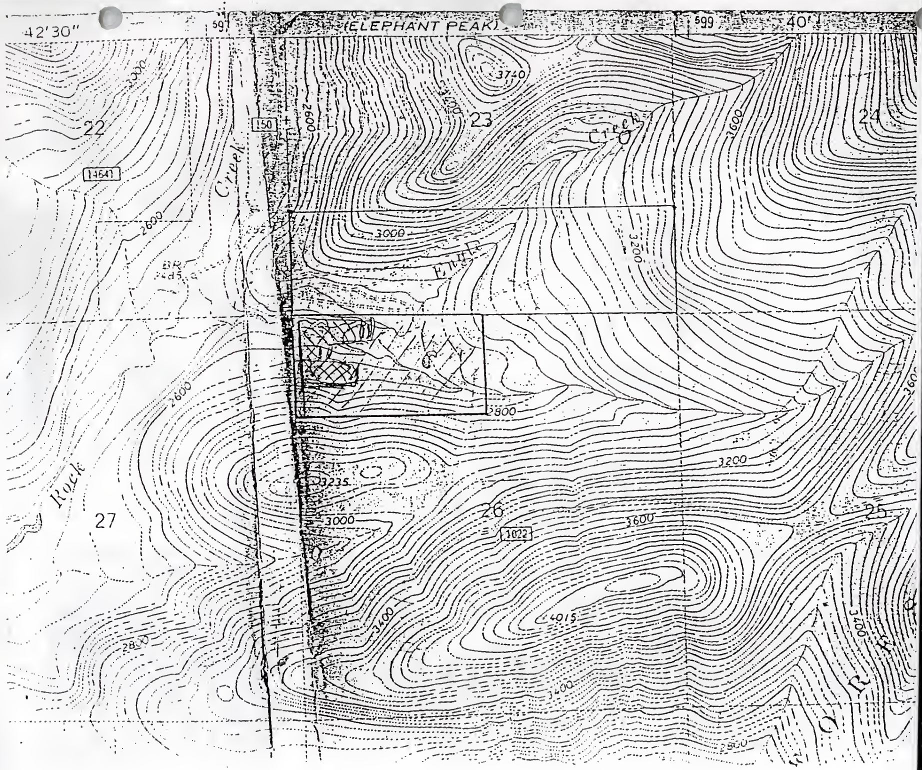
Montana Department of Fish, Wildlife and Parks, 1992. Summary of background information pertaining to regulation of the game farm industry. Prepared by Heidi Youmans. 24 pp.

REF:CABINET.EA
March 11, 1994

APPENDIX A.



1. ME = Main Enter. Gate
2. Qu = Quarantäne - doubleled Fenced approx. 5 + amminal for longer time
3. B = Bridge over Engel Creek
4. Fence = 8' steel Hightencyel Game Fence (Paific Steel) incl. top. wi
5. Post = 8' over ground - elect. wire in + outside incl. back up batterys. Post - wood - approx 4"-6" dia.
6. Gate = 2 Gate only ME + Qu. - Wooden gate -
7. W = Vater ▭ irregation Syst. one Gate inside.
8. (F) = Feeding area
9. BA = Barn
10. ⟶ = electric fence
11. → → → → Engle Creek



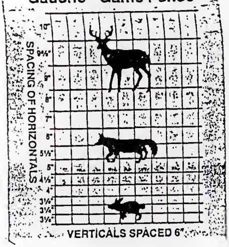
42'30"
59
(ELEPHANT PEAK)
599
40'
3740
3400
2600
23
22
24
150
1464
Creek
Creek
2600
3000
Eagle
3200
BR
2800
2600
3200
Rock
27
3235
3000
26
25
1022
3600
3600
3400
4015
3400
2800
3400
2800

A Hachment A

BEKAERT

Gaucho® Fencing

Gaucho® Game Fence



[illegible] exotic animals and deer for controlled hunting or preservation purposes . . . or to protect high yield, expensive crops from wild game exposure.

The 14 line wires are graduated for total control of both small and large game. For the *ultimate system*, erect the Gaucho® Game Fence and top it with one to three strands of Gaucho® Barbed Wire to a total height of at least 84 inches.

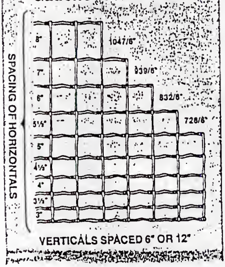
Erection of a Gaucho® Game Fence around orchards, vegetable crops, alfalfa or ornamental shrub nurseries can be a cost effective crop protection measure.

GAUCHO® GAME FENCE SPECIFICATIONS

Size	Horiz. Wires	Fence Height	Stay Wire Spacing	Edge Wire	Line and Stay Wires	Zinc Coating	Roll Wt. Lbs.	Length Rods
1478-6	14	78⅜"	6"	12½	14½	CL3	79	10
1478-6	14	78⅜"	6"	10½	12½	CL3	139	10

160

Gaucho® Field Fence

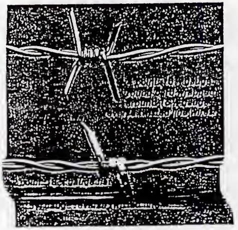


GAUCHO® FIELD FENCE SPECIFICATIONS

Size	Horiz. Wires	Fence Height	Stay Wire Spacing	Edge Wire	Line Wire	Zinc Coating	Roll Wt. Lbs.	Length Rods
Alternative to 9/11 ga. Standard Fence								
832-6	8	32"	6"	10½	12½	CL3	145	20
939-6	9	39"	6"	10½	12½	CL3	166	20
1047-6	10	47"	6"	10½	12½	CL3	188	20
939-12	9	39"	12"	10½	12½	CL3	126	20
1047-12	10	47"	12"	10½	12½	CL3	142	20
Stockman Special								
740-6	7	40"	6"	10½	12½	CL3	146	20
845-6	8	45"	6"	10½	12½	CL3	163	20
949-6	9	49"	6"	10½	12½	CL3	180	20
Alternative to 10/12½ ga. Standard Fence								
726-6	7	26"	6"	12½	14½	CL3	70	20
832-6	8	32"	6"	12½	14½	CL3	81	20
939-6	9	39"	6"	12½	14½	CL3	94	20
1047-6	10	47"	6"	12½	14½	CL3	106	20

Meets or Exceeds ASTM A-116

Gaucho® Barbed Wire



GAUCHO® BARBED WIRE SPECIFICATIONS

Types/Number of Barbs	2 Point	4 Point	4 Point
Spacing between barbs	5"	3"	5"
Line wire diameter	15½ gauge	15½ gauge	15½ gauge
Barb Dimensions	13¾ gauge Flat Barb	13½ gauge Round Barb	16½ gauge Round Barb
Line wire and barb zinc coating minimum weight *guaranteed*	Class 3	Class 3	Class 3
Weight per reel	41 lbs.	51 lbs.	44 lbs.
Length per reel *guaranteed*	80 Rods	80 Rods	80 Rods
Minimum breaking load *guaranteed*	950 lbs.	950 lbs.	950 lbs.
Reels per pallet	48	48	48

Reels packaged on a wooden pallet with a clear plastic shrink wrap which keeps wire clean and new-looking.

Meets or exceeds [illegible]